UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.241/70
29 January 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Letter dated 17 January 1997 from the representative of Oman to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, addressed to the Executive Secretary of the interim secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Chairman of the Group of Arab States participating in the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, presents his compliments to the interim secretariat of the International Convention to Combat Desertification and, with reference to document A/AC.241/9/Add.13/Corr.1, dated 14 January 1997, containing an amendment to the address of EcoPeace, a non-governmental organization which the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee decided to recommend for accreditation on 15 January 1997, during its tenth session in New York, wishes to express the Group's reservations about EcoPeace. These reservations are based on a number of considerations, not least of which is the absence of full and adequate information about the structure, headquarters, activities and goals of the organization. The Arab Group views the decision by the Committee as having the force of a recommendation only, which is subject to final approval by Member States. In this regard, the Chairman of the Group would be grateful if these reservations could be reflected in an official document of the Conference.

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On behalf of the Group of Arab States participating in the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, the Chairman of the Group takes this opportunity to convey to the interim secretariat the assurances of his highest consideration.

(Signed) Mohamed AL-HASSAN
Representative of Oman to the
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
for the Elaboration of an International
Convention to Combat Desertification in
Those Countries Experiencing Serious
Drought and/or Desertification,
particularly in Africa, and
Chairman of the Group of Arab States